1-1-1960

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HE MISSED BEING U. S. SENATOR BY ONE VOTE

By HAMPTON DUNN

PENSACOLA -- In Plaza Ferdinand VII here, where Spain ceded West Florida to the U. S. in 1821, there is a monument to the memory of Col. William D. Chipley.

Many nice things have been said about this pioneer, but this memorial expresses the admiration of a region:

"On the battlefield he was without fear, and without reproach; in the councils of state he was wise and sagacious, and in his public and private benefactions he was ever alert and tireless. The history of his life is the history of the up-building of West Florida, and its every material advancement, for two decades, bears the impress of his genius and his labor."

Son of a noted Kentucky physician and Transylvania University professor, Chipley was a Confederate hero in the Civil War, wounded at Chickamauga and later taken prisoner.

Returning to civilian life, he went to railroading. After a stint with the Baltimore & Ohio, he moved to Pensacola in 1873 and assumed control of the Pensacola Railroad, later merged with Louisville & Nashville. He also built the Pensacola & Atlantic Railroad.

Many honors came his way. He was Mayor of Pensacola many times, chairman of the State Democratic committee, head of United Confederate Veterans, president of the boards of trustees of Stetson University, the Seminary West of the Suwannee and the State Agriculture College, to mention a few. He served in the State Senate in 1895 and 1897, and failed being elected U. S. Senator by a single vote. The county seat of Washington County, formerly called Orange, was named Chipley for him.